

OFFSHORE ISLANDS

~~TOP SECRET~~

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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NSC BRIEFING

13 October 1954

OFFSHORE ISLANDS

I. Reduced Communist shelling of Quemoy's last week (under 100 rds. a day). Most on Little Quemoy, where civilians now have housing problem (400-600 homes destroyed).

A. Communist practicing landings near Amoy--may be rehearsal or show of strength.

B. Nationalists claim "urgent" work on road from Shihshih to Weitou, which good jump-off point.

C. Fukien troops told they "expected inflict greater blows" on Nationalists, "strive for greater victories."

D. Two nearest jet fighter units

(at Nanchang and Canton)

maintaining advanced readiness.

II. Nationalists at Quemoy have not
attacked mainland targets since
28 September.

A. Taipei press claims US advised
suspension: complains Communists
thus have new "Yalu sanctuary"
in Fukien, Formosa "re-neutralized."

B. Statements could lead to
Peiping attack in belief US
anxious avoid hostilities.

C. Danger could increase if
Communists spot US force
reduction in area.

III. At Tachens, Communists continue air
patrols: some shelling of Ichiang.

A. Still no signs of troop assembly,
although could be done with

B. Large air base being built at Chuhsien (225 miles southwest of Shanghai). When completed (mid-November), more jets can be based near Tachens: also able reach all of offshore islands, Formosa as well.

IV. Nationalist navy at Tachens more aggressive. 10 Oct., two Nationalist DE's sank two Communist patrol vessels (escorting nine junks), damaged several of convoy.

V. No significant reports concerning Matsus.